

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows.

1. (Currently amended) A method for facilitating user registration in a network-based ~~auction~~ facility, the method comprising:
 - identifying, in the network-based ~~auction~~ facility, a user associated with a registration process within the network-based ~~auction~~ facility;
 - assigning, in the network-based ~~auction~~ facility, a verification rating to the user based on accuracy of registration information submitted by the user during the registration process; and
 - registering the user with the network-based ~~auction~~ facility if the verification rating exceeds a predetermined threshold, to allow the user to interact ~~conduct sale and purchase transactions~~ with other users in the network-based ~~auction~~ facility, wherein the predetermined threshold is varied based on whether the user is a corporation or an individual.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein assigning the verification rating further comprises:
 - performing a set of validity checks on the registration information of the user;
 - determining a result of each validity check within the set of validity checks; and
 - calculating the verification rating based on the result of each validity check.
3. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein each validity check verifies validity of a corresponding piece of the registration information of the user.
4. (Original) The method of claim 2 further comprising utilizing a set of verification rules to define the set of validity checks, and translating the result of each validity check into a numerical value.

5. (Original) The method of claim 2 further comprising:
creating a verification detail record using the result of each validity check; and
storing the verification detail record in a database.
6. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising storing the verification rating of the user in a database.
7. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the registration information comprises demographic information of the user.
8. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
maintaining a database of valid demographic information; and
determining whether demographic information entered by the user matches any of the valid demographic information from the database.
9. (Original) The method of claim 8 wherein the valid demographic information defines correlation between a plurality of area codes and a plurality of location information.
10. (Original) The method of claim 9 wherein each of the plurality of location information includes any one of the group comprising country information, zip code information, state information, city information, time zone information, latitude information, and longitude information.
11. (Original) The method of claim 8 wherein the valid demographic information defines correlation between a plurality of area codes and a plurality of location information.
12. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising providing user interface information to the user via a communications network, the user interface information specifying a registration interface for obtaining registration information of the user.

13. (Currently amended) A system for facilitating user registration in a network-based ~~auction~~ facility, the system comprising:

means for identifying, in the network-based ~~auction~~ facility, a user associated with a registration process within the network-based ~~auction~~ facility;

means for assigning, in the network-based ~~auction~~ facility, a verification rating to the user based on accuracy of registration information submitted by the user during the registration process; and

means for registering the user with the network-based ~~auction~~ facility if the verification rating exceeds a predetermined threshold, to allow the user to interact ~~conduct sale and purchase transactions~~ with other users in the network-based ~~auction~~ facility, wherein the predetermined threshold is varied based on whether the user is a corporation or an individual.

14. (Currently amended) An apparatus for facilitating user registration in a network-based ~~auction~~ facility, the apparatus comprising:

an identification function to identify, in the network-based ~~auction~~ facility, a user associated with a registration process within the network-based ~~auction~~ facility;

a set of verification rules to assign, in the network-based ~~auction~~ facility, a verification rating to the user based on accuracy of registration information submitted by the user during the registration process; and

a registration function to register the user with the network-based ~~auction~~ facility if the verification rating exceeds a predetermined threshold, to allow the user to interact ~~conduct sale and purchase transactions~~ with other users in the network-based ~~auction~~ facility, wherein the predetermined threshold is varied based on whether the user is a corporation or an individual.

15. (Original) The apparatus of claim 14 wherein the registration function is to perform a set of validity checks on the registration information of the user, to determine a result of each validity check within the set of validity checks, and to calculate the verification rating based on the result of each validity check.

16. (Original) The apparatus of claim 15 wherein each validity check verifies validity of a corresponding piece of the registration information of the user.

17. (Original) The apparatus of claim 15 wherein the registration function is to further utilize a set of verification rules for defining the set of validity checks, and to translate the result of each validity check into a numerical value.

18. (Original) The apparatus of claim 15 wherein the registration function is to further create a verification detail record using the result of each validity check, and to store the verification detail record in a database.

19. (Original) The apparatus of claim 14 further comprising a database to store the verification rating of the user.

20. (Original) The apparatus of claim 14 wherein the registration information comprises demographic information of the user.

21. (Original) The apparatus of claim 14 further comprising a database of valid demographic information, and wherein the registration module is to further determine whether demographic information entered by the user matches any of the valid demographic information from the database.

22. (Original) The apparatus of claim 21 wherein the valid demographic information defines correlation between a plurality of area codes and a plurality of location information.

23. (Original) The apparatus of claim 22 wherein each of the plurality of location information includes any one of the group comprising country information, zip code information, state information, city information, time zone information, latitude information, and longitude information.

24. (Original) The apparatus of claim 21 wherein the valid demographic information defines correlation between a plurality of area codes and a plurality of location information

25. (Original) The apparatus of claim 14 further comprising a client computer to provide user interface information to the user via a communications network, the user interface information specifying a registration interface for obtaining registration information of the user.

26. (Currently amended) A computer readable medium that provides instructions, which when executed on a processor, cause the processor to perform operations comprising:

identifying, in a network-based-auction facility, a user associated with a registration process within the network-based-auction facility;

assigning, in the network-based-auction facility, a verification rating to the user based on accuracy of registration information submitted by the user during the registration process; and

registering the user with the network-based-auction facility if the verification rating exceeds a predetermined threshold, to allow the user to interact conduct sale and purchase transactions with other users in the network-based-auction facility, wherein the predetermined threshold is varied based on whether the user is a corporation or an individual.

27.-29. (Canceled)

30. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the network-based facility comprises a network-based auction facility.

31. (New) The method of claim 30, wherein the registering is to allow the user to conduct sale and purchase transactions with other users in the network-based auction facility.

32. (New) The system of claim 13, wherein the network-based facility comprises a network-based auction facility.

33. (New) The system of claim 32, wherein the means for registering is to allow the user to conduct sale and purchase transactions with other users in the network-based auction facility.

34. (New) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the network-based facility comprises a network-based auction facility.

35. (New) The system of claim 34, wherein the registration function is to allow the user to conduct sale and purchase transactions with other users in the network-based auction facility.

36. (New) The computer readable medium of claim 26, wherein the network-based facility comprises a network-based auction facility.

37. (New) The computer readable medium of claim 36, wherein the registering is to allow the user to conduct sale and purchase transactions with other users in the network-based auction facility.

38. (New) A method for facilitating user registration in a network-based facility, the method comprising:

identifying, in the network-based facility, a user associated with a registration process within the network-based facility;

assigning, in the network-based facility, a verification rating to the user based on accuracy of registration information submitted by the user during the registration process; and

registering the user with the network-based facility if the verification rating exceeds a predetermined threshold, to allow the user to interact with other users in the network-based facility; and

outputting the verification rating to a different user that has registered with the registration process, wherein the outputting is to enable the different user to access the verification rating of the user.

39. (New) The method of claim 38 wherein assigning the verification rating further comprises:
- performing a set of validity checks on the registration information of the user;
 - determining a result of each validity check within the set of validity checks; and
 - calculating the verification rating based on the result of each validity check.
40. (New) The method of claim 38 wherein the registration information comprises demographic information of the user.
41. (New) The method of claim 38 further comprising:
- maintaining a database of valid demographic information; and
 - determining whether demographic information entered by the user matches any of the valid demographic information from the database.
42. (New) The method of claim 41 wherein the valid demographic information defines correlation between a plurality of area codes and a plurality of location information.
43. (New) The method of claim 42 wherein each of the plurality of location information includes any one of the group comprising country information, zip code information, state information, city information, time zone information, latitude information, and longitude information.
44. (New) The method of claim 41 wherein the valid demographic information defines correlation between a plurality of area codes and a plurality of location information.
45. (New) The method of claim 38, wherein the network-based facility comprises a network-based auction facility.
46. (New) The method of claim 45, wherein the registering is to allow the user to conduct sale and purchase transactions with other users in the network-based auction facility.

47. (New) An apparatus for facilitating user registration in a network-based system, the apparatus comprising:

an identification function to identify, in the network-based system, a user associated with a registration process within the network-based system;

a set of verification rules to assign, in the network-based system, a verification rating to the user based on accuracy of registration information submitted by the user during the registration process; and

a registration function to register the user with the network-based system if the verification rating exceeds a predetermined threshold, to allow the user to interact with other users in the network-based system, wherein the verification rating is accessible by a different user that has registered with the registration process.

48. (New) The apparatus of claim 47 wherein the registration function is to perform a set of validity checks on the registration information of the user, to determine a result of each validity check within the set of validity checks, and to calculate the verification rating based on the result of each validity check.

49. (New) The apparatus of claim 48 wherein each validity check verifies validity of a corresponding piece of the registration information of the user.

50. (New) The apparatus of claim 48 wherein the registration function is to further utilize a set of verification rules for defining the set of validity checks, and to translate the result of each validity check into a numerical value.

51. (New) The apparatus of claim 47 wherein the registration information comprises demographic information of the user.

52. (New) The apparatus of claim 47 further comprising a database of valid demographic information, and wherein the registration module is to further determine whether demographic information entered by the user matches any of the valid demographic information from the database.

53. (New) The apparatus of claim 52 wherein the valid demographic information defines correlation between a plurality of area codes and a plurality of location information.

54. (New) A computer readable medium that provides instructions, which when executed on a processor, cause the processor to perform operations comprising:

assigning, in a network-based system, a verification rating to a user based on accuracy of registration information submitted by the user during the registration process; and

registering the user with the network-based system if the verification rating exceeds a predetermined threshold, to allow the user to interact with other users in the network-based system, wherein the verification rating is accessible by a different user that has registered with the registration process.

55. (New) The computer readable medium of claim 54 wherein the registration information comprises demographic information of the user.

56. (New) The computer readable medium of claim 54, wherein the assigning and registering are performed in a network-based auction facility of the network-based system.

57. (New) The computer readable medium of claim 56, wherein the registering is to allow the user to conduct sale and purchase transactions with other users in the network-based auction facility.

58. (New) A method for facilitating user registration in a network-based transaction facility, the method comprising:

assigning, in a network-based transaction facility, a verification rating to a user based on accuracy of registration information submitted by the user during a registration process; and

registering the user with the network-based transaction facility if the verification rating exceeds a predetermined threshold, to allow the user to interact with other users in the network-based transaction facility, wherein the predetermined threshold is proportionate to at least one of a size of the network-based transaction facility and a type of operation of the network-based transaction facility.

59. (New) The method of claim 58 wherein assigning the verification rating further comprises:

- performing a set of validity checks on the registration information of the user;
- determining a result of each validity check within the set of validity checks; and
- calculating the verification rating based on the result of each validity check.

60. (New) The method of claim 58 wherein the registration information comprises demographic information of the user.

61. (New) The method of claim 58 further comprising:

- maintaining a database of valid demographic information; and
- determining whether demographic information entered by the user matches any of the valid demographic information from the database.

62. (New) The method of claim 61 wherein the valid demographic information defines correlation between a plurality of area codes and a plurality of location information.

63. (New) The method of claim 62 wherein each of the plurality of location information includes any one of the group comprising country information, zip code information, state information, city information, time zone information, latitude information, and longitude information.

64. (New) The method of claim 61 wherein the valid demographic information defines correlation between a plurality of area codes and a plurality of location information.

65. (New) An apparatus for facilitating user registration in a network-based transaction facility, the apparatus comprising:

a set of verification rules to assign, in the network-based transaction facility, a verification rating to the user based on accuracy of registration information submitted by a user during a registration process; and

a registration function to register the user with the network-based transaction facility if the verification rating exceeds a predetermined threshold, to allow the user to interact with other users in the network-based transaction facility, wherein the predetermined threshold is proportionate to at least one of a size of the network-based transaction facility and a type of operation of the network-based transaction facility

66. (New) The apparatus of claim 65 wherein the registration function is to perform a set of validity checks on the registration information of the user, to determine a result of each validity check within the set of validity checks, and to calculate the verification rating based on the result of each validity check.

67. (New) The apparatus of claim 66 wherein each validity check verifies validity of a corresponding piece of the registration information of the user.

68. (New) The apparatus of claim 66 wherein the registration function is to further utilize a set of verification rules for defining the set of validity checks, and to translate the result of each validity check into a numerical value.

69. (New) The apparatus of claim 65 wherein the registration information comprises demographic information of the user.

70. (New) The apparatus of claim 65 further comprising a database of valid demographic information, and wherein the registration module is to further determine whether demographic information entered by the user matches any of the valid demographic information from the database.

71. (New) The apparatus of claim 70 wherein the valid demographic information defines correlation between a plurality of area codes and a plurality of location information.

72. (New) A computer readable medium that provides instructions, which when executed on a processor, cause the processor to perform operations comprising:

assigning, in a network-based transaction facility, a verification rating to a user based on accuracy of registration information submitted by the user during a registration process; and

registering the user with the network-based transaction facility if the verification rating exceeds a predetermined threshold, to allow the user to interact with other users in the network-based transaction facility, wherein the predetermined threshold is proportionate to at least one of a size of the network-based transaction facility and a type of operation of the network-based transaction facility.

73. (New) The computer readable medium of claim 72 wherein the registration information comprises demographic information of the user.

74. (New) The computer readable medium of claim 72, wherein the registering is to allow the user to conduct sale and purchase transactions with other users in the network-based auction facility.